

In a democracy it is critical that differing views be readily available to the public.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

This is one of worst dangers facing our democracy today.

If Sinclair goes ahead with its plan, it has an public obligation to air an anti-Bush documentary as well.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get skewed and uneven information--more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions are a perfect example of lax media ownership rules creating a forum for public manipulation, and show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve

more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.